



Notes from the Vale

Friday 12th September 2025

Volume 24, Issue 1

Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

A very warm welcome back to all of our families. I hope that you had a wonderful summer break and have started the new term feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

It has been a pleasure to welcome back our returning pupils along with the many new families we have had joining our community. Pupils have returned to school with a brilliant enthusiasm for the year ahead and have already got stuck into their new learning. We have been spending some time reinforcing our READY behaviours and expectations for when in school. Pupils have stepped up to these expectations perfectly and we have a real sense of calm and purpose in all classrooms.

Our new foundation pupils have now started 'big school' full time. After a few initial tears, they are really adjusting to life at school and enjoying the great learning environment that has been created for them by our foundation team. I am really looking forward to watching them develop and grow in the coming weeks and months.

Summer works

Over the summer, we have continued to improve the spaces across the school (both inside and out). Our year 6 classrooms and spaces on the top floor of the school have had a makeover, we have made further improvements to the internal security, and the foundation garden has been stripped back to allow us to design this great learning space.

The summer was a challenging time for the school though. Unfortunately, there was a break-in during the first week of the summer and some damage was caused to the new foundation play area. This was followed by a deliberate fire on the site which destroyed one of our outbuildings and at the end of the summer break we were flooded (again!). This has resulted in significant damage to areas of the school which we are addressing as a matter of priority.

'Meet the teacher' informal meetings

You will have received a notification from us inviting you to 'meet the teacher' evenings next week. These are a great opportunity to meet the adults working with your child this year, find out about the year ahead and receive some key information. We hope that you will all be able to attend. We have also sent home a letter which provides an introduction to your child's new year group which contains important information about the year ahead.

Communication

Please do refresh yourself on how the school will communicate with you throughout the year. A summary document can be found on our website [here](#). Our website is also a great place to find key information and the year group pages contain relevant information for this term (these pages are currently being updated with new information). We will, of course, be letting you know shortly about the autumn term parents' evenings.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.

Resilience, Collaboration, Responsibility, Bravery, Communication, Self-belief

Together we

are musicians



The orchestra met this week for their first practice. We were delighted to welcome lots of new musicians from Year 4. What a great sound you all made on your first rehearsal.

Year three were discovering how musical elements can describe animals. Here we are playing with boomwhackers to the tortoise song!



Together we

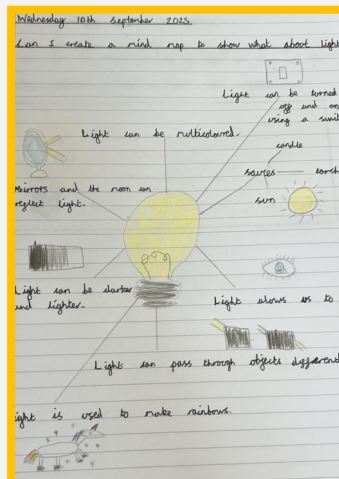
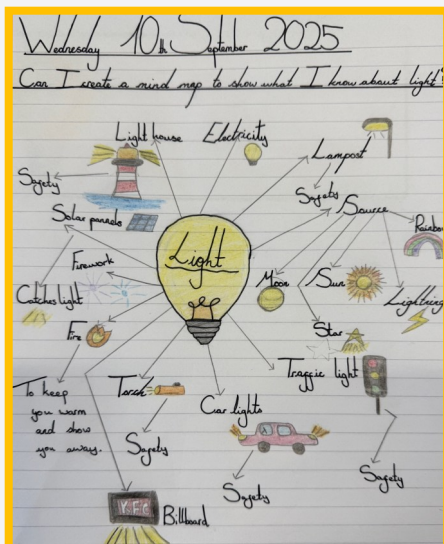
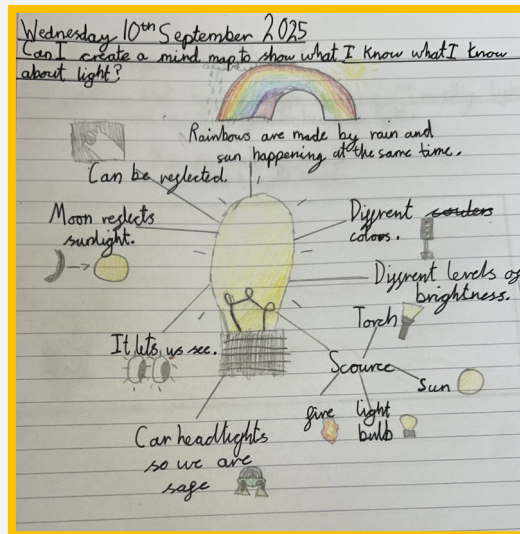
love to learn



Wow! What a super start year 1 have had! They have impressed us with how well they have settled into the new routines. The children have been trying really hard to learn and show our three golden rules in and outside of the classroom. We have really enjoyed getting to know them and seeing them happily engaged in their new environment. Here is a snapshot of the first week.

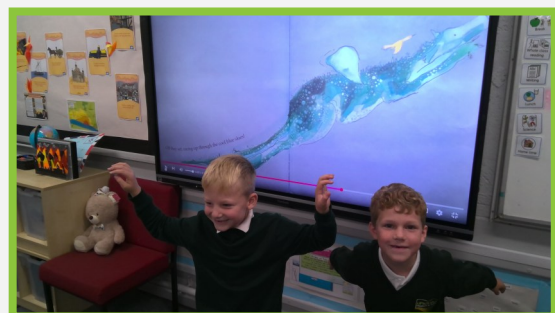
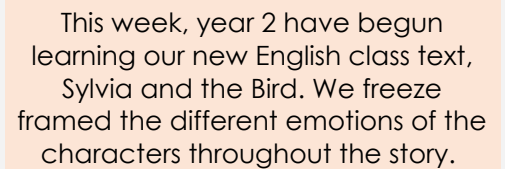


This week, in year 6, we have started our science topic for this half term which is all about light. We have been unpicking what we already know about the topic and have had fun creating wonderful mind maps to show our understanding. Within the lessons, we have been developing our scientific vocabulary and are now able to confidently explain that light is a form of energy and will be going on to conduct a series of experiments to discover how light travels in the upcoming lessons. What a great start to our year 6 science learning, keep up the great work!



Together we

A large, bright classroom with a high ceiling and exposed metal trusses. Students are working on projects. Some are sitting at long tables with laptops and papers, while others are standing and discussing. The room has large windows and a whiteboard. The students are wearing green and white uniforms. The room is filled with various educational materials, including books, papers, and a large screen. The atmosphere is collaborative and focused.



Together we

Children in Year 4 enjoyed their first gymnastics lesson this week and showed us great flexibility and balance as they practiced some different shapes.

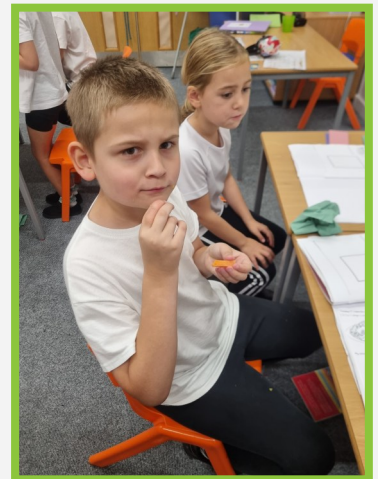
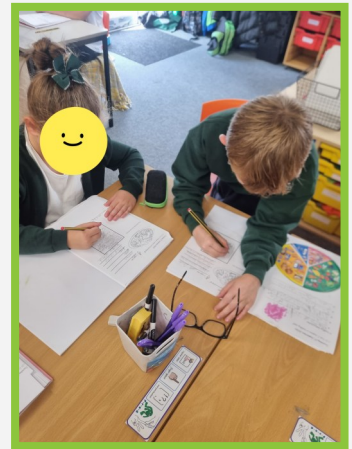


love to learn

love to learn

Together we

Year 3 has had a wonderful first full week back in school! It has been fantastic having our classrooms bustling with excitement again! The highlight of this week was taste testing different ingredients for our seasonal salads. Celery and beetroot have some very strong reactions but everyone gave everything a go and we think we will have some very interesting salads for parents to taste next week.



love to learn

Together we

We are Readers

The Summer Reading Challenge 2025

The **closing date** for the **Summer Reading Challenge** with Plymouth Libraries is tomorrow, **Saturday 13th September**. Well done to all of the children that took part. We will welcome a Plymouth Schools' librarian to our celebration assembly on Friday 10th October to present a certificate to children who completed the challenge by reading 6 books over the summer.

BoomReader

Thank you for engaging with our digital reading diary, BoomReader. We encourage you to log your child's reading at least three times each week. Reading will be monitored in school, and children who meet this expectation will receive a raffle ticket each week, giving them the chance to win a free book at the end of the half term.

If you have any questions about using BoomReader, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Reading Recommendations

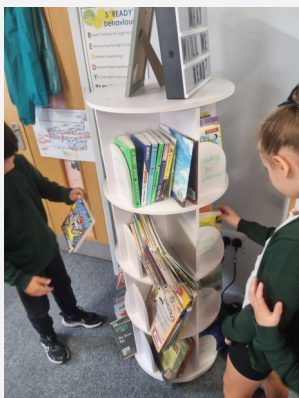
It has been wonderful to see so much enthusiastic reading around school at the start of this year. Reading for pleasure brings enormous benefits: it supports every aspect of learning while also nurturing curiosity, empathy, and imagination.

If you are looking for inspiration, here are two excellent resources for book recommendations:

- The Reader Teacher – A fantastic website where you can search for books by year group and key stage. [The Reader Teacher | Children's Books | Reads, Reviews & Recommendations](#)
- Books for Topics – A helpful site that allows you to find books by age, topic, or subject. [Best children's books - Curriculum Topic Booklists](#)

Of course, please do speak to your child's class teacher if you would like any support in finding a book at school or with any aspect of reading.

Happy reading.



News & Events

Plymouth Arts Cinema

Into Film Festival



Into Film Festival is taking place at Plymouth Arts Cinema in November. The Into Film Festival is a free, annual, nationwide celebration of film & education for 5-19 year olds. All bookings are entirely free.

Plymouth Arts Cinema is an award winning, local independent cinema. We take care to make sure that our cinema is friendly and welcoming to young audiences. The cinema is accessible with one wheelchair space. We are based inside Arts University Plymouth.

Learn more about the Into Film Festival and book here: <https://www.intofilm.org/events/festival>

my **child** at **school**.com ✓



Scan the QR code to be taken to our MCAS launch page. Reset your password to activate your account.

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS



If you have recently changed any contact information (phone number, address etc) please let the school know so that we can update our records. We have added a simple online form to our website which you can complete (in seconds) to notify us of any changes.

GIRLS FOOTBALL AT MARINE ACADEMY PLYMOUTH

NEW SESSIONS

School Years 2, 3 & 4
Monday 6-7pm

Only £3 per session

Part of the FA accredited Wildcats scheme

Sessions to be held indoors in Sports Hall

Open to all abilities

Places need to be booked

For further information & to book a space email: samantha.drewery@marineacademy.org.uk
Tel: 01752 213951

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL AT MARINE ACADEMY PLYMOUTH

MINI KICKERS FOOTBALL SESSIONS

Fridays 4.30-5.30pm
Ages 4-5
School Year Reception

Fridays 5.30-6.30pm
Ages 5-6
School Year 1

£3 a session

Sessions to take place in the Sports Hall

Places need to be booked

For information on our community programme email: samantha.drewery@marineacademy.org.uk
Tel: 01752 213951

TRY MARTIAL ARTS
2 FREE LESSONS

DORYOKURYU KARATE

KARATE IS A FANTASTIC WAY TO GET FIT AND LEARN SELF-DEFENCE FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN.

TRAINING PROMOTES:
FITNESS & WEIGHT-LOSS
WELLBEING & SELF-DEFENCE
CONFIDENCE & COORDINATION
COURTESY & RESPECT

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BERNICE TERRACE
PL4 7HW
&
@ST PAULS CHURCH
100 EFFORD LANE, EFFORD
PL4 6LT

TO RECEIVE YOUR FREE 2 LESSON TRIAL
CONTACT US ON 0777162220
OR EMAIL: admin@doryokuryu.com
OR MESSAGE us via Facebook.

All instructors are: Black Belts, DBS checked, Trained in First Aid & Safeguarding and Fully Insured.

Visit our website www.doryokuryu.com

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COMMUNITY FOOTBALL AT MARINE ACADEMY PLYMOUTH

WINTER PROGRAMME

SESSION	SCHOOL YEAR	DAY / TIME	FACILITY
Mini Kickers	Reception Year 1	Friday 4.30-5.30pm Friday 5.30-6.30pm	Sports Hall Sports Hall
Total Football	Year 2/3	Monday 5-6pm	Sports Hall
Monday Night Football	Year 4/5/6	Monday 5-6pm	3G (Moulded Boots)
Girls Football	Year 2/3/4	Monday 6-7pm	Sports Hall

FUN, INCLUSIVE, EVERYONE WELCOME

DBS & Qualified FA Coaches
Potential pathways into Marine Academy Plymouth FC
Only £3 per session
Places need to be booked

For further information email: darren.stewart@marineacademy.org.uk
Tel: 01752 213951

Collective Worship

In Collective Worship this week, we were reminding ourselves of the school expectations - particularly what it means to be READY. We considered how we can show our READY behaviours throughout the day and around the school. We also reminded ourselves of our school values and the British Values. These values underpin our thinking throughout the year so it was good for us to develop our understanding.

How will you show you are READY in and out of the classroom?

Dates for your diaries:

15.09.2025	Year 6 Meet the Teacher @3.30pm
16.09.2025	Year 2 Meet the Teacher @3.30pm
17.09.2025	Years 1, 3, 4 & 5 Meet the Teacher @3.30pm
09.10.2025	Flu immunisations (whole school)
23.10.2025	Class photos
24.10.2025	Last day of school
27-31.10.2025	Half Term Holiday
03.11.2025	First day of school
19.12.2025	Last day of school
20.12.2025	Christmas Holidays begin
05.01.2026	Non pupil day
06.01.2026	First day of school



Bernice Terrace, Lipson, Plymouth, PL4 7HW
01752 224801



www.lvps.co.uk



lipson.vale.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk

Lipson Vale Primary

